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CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

OF THE

SCHOHARIE COUNTY

Historical Society,

SCHOHARIE, N. Y.,

WITH THE

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION, LIST OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS, AND CIRCULAR REQUESTING LOANS AND CONTRIBUTIONS.

Founded Nov. 29, 1888. Incorporated March 4, 1889

SCHOHARIE, N. Y.:
PRINTED AT THE REPUBLICAN OFFICE.
1889.

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Schoharie County historical society, *Schoharie, N. Y.*

Constitution and by-laws of the Schoharie County historical society, Schoharie, N. Y., with the articles of incorporation, list of officers and members, and circular requesting loans and contributions ... Schoharie, N. Y., Printed at the Republican office, 1889.

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ORGANIZATION.

On Thursday, Nov. 29th, 1888, Henry Cady, Dr. H. F. Kingsley and Prof. Solomon Sias met in the parlor of Wood's Hotel, Scholarie, to consult upon the feasibility of forming a County Historical Society. As the result of their conference the following resolution was drawn up and placed in the hands of Supervisor J. P. Chapman, Middleburgh, for presentation to the Board of Supervisors. The following extract from their published proceedings for 1888 shows the result:

"By unanimous consent the rules of order was suspended and Mr. Chapman offered the following:

"*Resolved*, That the following named persons or a majority thereof, Mark W. Stevens, Hobart Krum, John B. Grant, S. L. Mayham, Solomon Sias, Henry Cady, Henry F. Kingsley, Seymour Boughton, Charles Brewster, Charles E. Knuskern, Frank G. Mix, George L. Taylor, Charles M. Throop, William D. Gebhard, Smith Youngs and Peter C. Vroman, be granted the free use of the building known as "The Old Stone Fort," of which the Board of Supervisors is the legal custodian, provided that within the ensuing six months they organize a society or association to be known as "The Scholarie County Historical Society," and within a year from date secure a charter of organization under General Laws, Chapter 203, laws of 1879, or such other law as has been or may be passed by the Legislature making and governing such organizations; and that the Custodian of the Building appointed by this Board shall be under the direction and control of such organization as far as may not conflict with instructions given him by this or ensuing Boards of Supervisors; and provided also that the use and control of said building shall be given the before mentioned

persons only so far as may be necessary for the organization, uses, and purposes of such Historical Association.

"Prof. Sias being present, and the privilege of the floor having been accorded, he addressed the Board urging its adoption.

"The resolution was thereupon unanimously adopted."

The following Thursday, Dec. 6th, at the regular monthly meeting of Niagara Engine Co. No. 6, Prof. Sias brought the subject before them, and it was moved by E. H. Heck and unanimously carried—"That we extend to the Schoharie County Historical Society the use of Niagara Engine Company's parlor for their meetings for organization and so long as it may be used by them thereafter for their meetings."

As soon as it could be accomplished thereafter a majority of of those mentioned in the resolution assembled in the parlor of the Engine Company and took the preliminary steps for organization. The law firm of Krum & Grant volunteered to draft the papers necessary for incorporation, a committee was appointed to prepare a constitution and by-laws modelled after those of the Oneida County Historical Society; and at a meeting held Monday, March 4th, 1889, the Articles of Incorporation, and the Constitution and By-laws were adopted, officers elected for the ensuing year, and the Society went into legal and incorporated existence.

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION.

We, the undersigned, citizens of the United States, residing in the County of Schoharie and State of New York, and being also citizens of the said State of New York, of the age of twenty-one years and upwards, do hereby associate ourselves and form a corporation pursuant to the provisions of the Statutes of the State of New York and particularly under Chapter 267 of the laws of 1875, as amended by Chapter 53 of the laws of 1876, as amended by Chapter 98 of the laws of 1880.

The name by which such corporation shall be known in law is "The Schoharie County Historical Society."

The particular object and business of said Society shall be and is, to create an interest in historical matters, gather, collect and disseminate historical information, collect, receive, preserve and safely keep historical records, documents, books, papers, maps, manuscripts, letters, journals, relics, and other historical data, articles, and things, and generally to do and transact any and all matters, business, and things that may be properly and lawfully done and transacted by or pertains to or comes within the scope of such incorporated historical society.

The principal office and place of business of said society shall be in the village of Schoharie, in the County of Schoharie, N. Y.

The said Corporation shall be managed by its president, three vice-presidents, a recording secretary, a corresponding secretary, a treasurer, a librarian, and five members of said society, who shall constitute its Board of Managers.

The names of said managers for the first year of the existence of said Corporation are Mark W. Stevens, President; George L. Danforth, 1st Vice-President; Wm. E. Roscoe, 2d Vice-President; Hobart Krum, 3d Vice-President; Henry F. Kingsley, Recording Secretary; Solomon Sias, Corresponding Secretary; John B. Grant, Treasurer; Henry Cady, Librarian; and Charles Brewster, Frank G. Mix, William D. Gebhard, Peter C. Vroman, and Martin Van Buren Hagar.

Said Managers and Martin L. Schæffer, Henry A. Brown, Arthur H. Farquher, Charles E. Kniskern, Smith Youngs, Daniel W. Jenkins, John W. Larkin, William Whitting, Luman Reed, Dr. Richtmyer Hubbell, Daniel H. Miller, Orin Huse, Seymour Boughton, Dow Beekman, Orson Spickerman, Henry H. Johnson, Gilbert France, Jacob VanValkenburgh, Peter F. Zimmer, James M. Foster, David Enders, Edward Lamont, Albert L. Fisher and John Van Schaick constitute a Board of Councillors of said society,—the foregoing being all the officers of said society for the first year.

(Signed.) G. L. Danforth, M. V. B. Hagar, Dow Beekman, Wm. E. Roscoe, Henry Cady, Henry F. Kingsley, Hobart Krum, Mark W. Stevens, Peter C. Vroman, Solomon Sias, John B. Grant, Frank G. Mix, Chas. Brewster, Wm. D. Gebhard.

STATE OF NEW YORK, }
County of Schoharie, } ss.:

On this 9th day of February, 1889, before me personally came Martin V. B. Hagar, to me personally known to be one of the persons who executed the foregoing Articles of Incorporation, and who acknowledged to me the execution thereof.

S. G. BADGLEY,
Justice of the Peace.

STATE OF NEW YORK, }
County of Schoharie, } ss.:

On this 13th day of February, one thousand eight hundred and eighty nine, before me personally came George L. Danforth and Dow Beekman, to me personally known to be two of the persons who executed the foregoing Articles of Incorporation and who severally acknowledged to me the execution thereof.

W. H. ENGLE,
Notary Public.

STATE OF NEW YORK, } ss.:
Schoharie County.

On this 19th day of February, 1889, before me personally came William E. Roscoe, to me personally known to be the person who executed the foregoing instrument or Articles of Incorporation and who acknowledged to me the execution thereof.

A. J. YOUNG,
Justice of the Peace.

STATE OF NEW YORK, } ss.:
County of Schoharie.

On this 19th day of February, 1889, before me personally came Henry Cady, Henry F. Kingsley, Hobart Krum, Mark W. Stevens, Peter C. Vroman, Solomon Sias, John B. Grant, Frank G. Mix, Charles Brewster, Wm. D. Gebhard, to me personally known to be the persons who executed the foregoing instrument or Articles of Incorporation and who severally acknowledged to me the execution thereof.

JAMES M. BURNS,
Notary Public.

I hereby give my written consent and approbation of the within Certificate of Incorporation.—March 4th, 1889.

STEPHEN L. MAYHAM,
Justice of the Supreme Court.

Filed March 5th, 1889.

ARTHUR D. MEAD,
Clerk.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

This society shall be called "The Schoharie County Historical Society."

ARTICLE II.

The object of this society shall be to create an interest in historical matters; to discover, gather, collect and disseminate historical information: collect, receive, preserve, and safely keep historical records, documents, books, papers, maps, manuscripts, letters, journals, relics, and other historical data, articles, and things, which may establish or illustrate the history, growth, and progress of the County of Schoharie and its surroundings.

ARTICLE III.

The society shall consist of resident, corresponding, honorary and life members. Resident members shall be residents of the County of Schoharie. The names of all candidates shall be referred to the Committee on Membership, and action shall not be taken until a subsequent meeting; when, upon a report from that committee, a majority shall be required for election.

ARTICLE IV.

Resident members shall pay an admission fee of one dollar; and, thereafter, an annual fee of fifty cents, which shall be paid on or before the first day of May in each and every year. Any member in arrears for annual dues on the second Tuesday in January in each year, and who shall have received notice thereof from the treasurer as early as the preceding first day of October, shall no longer be considered a member of the society, and his name may be dropped upon a majority vote of the society.

ARTICLE V.

The officers of the society shall consist of a President, First,

Second, and Third Vice Presidents, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, a Librarian, or Curator, and a Treasurer, who shall be elected annually, on the second Tuesday of January by a majority of ballots, and who, together with an Executive Committee of five from among the members of the Board of Councilors, shall constitute a Board of Managers of the society, exercising the duties and discharging the responsibilities which belong to boards of trustees in general. Seven members of the Board of Managers shall constitute a quorum at any regularly called meeting.

ARTICLE VI.

There shall be a Board of thirty-seven Councilors, who shall hold office for life or so long as they shall continue to be members. An Executive Committee of five shall be elected annually from among the Board of Councilors. All vacancies in the Board of Councilors shall be filled at the next annual meeting of the society by a majority of ballots, on the nomination of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VII.

None but life or resident members shall be eligible to office or qualified to vote.

ARTICLE VIII.

The payment of ten dollars at one time shall constitute a life member, exempt from the payment of annual dues.

ARTICLE IX.

The President shall preside at all meetings of the society, regulate its proceedings, keep and preserve order, and have a casting vote. He shall be chairman of the Board of Managers. In his absence the Vice Presidents may discharge the duties of president, and shall take precedence in the order named in article five.

ARTICLE X.

The Recording Secretary shall have the custody of the constitution, by-laws, and records of the society, and shall notify all persons of their election to membership. He shall give due notice of all regular and special meetings, and keep a record of

the proceedings of the same. At least two days' notice by mail or personally shall be given of all special meetings. He shall be secretary of the Board of Managers, and shall keep a record of their proceedings.

ARTICLE XI.

The Corresponding Secretary shall have the custody of all letters and communications on the business of the society, and shall submit to the society all communications received by him as such secretary. He shall, under the direction of the society, prepare all communications to be addressed to others in the name of the society, and keep copies of such as may be important.

ARTICLE XII.

The Librarian or Curator, under the direction of the Board of Managers, shall have the custody, care, and superintendence of the library, cabinet and collection belonging to the society or in its possession, and shall, if required, prepare and continue a catalogue of the same, and shall arrange the collection of the society in a manner convenient and suitable for reference and inspection. He shall keep a record of all donations and loans to the society, and shall prepare and read at each annual meeting thereof a statement of the growth and condition of the library and collection of the society.

ARTICLE XIII.

The Treasurer shall receive and keep all securities and moneys due and payable or belonging to the society He shall give such bonds as the Board of Managers may direct. He shall pay such sums as the society shall direct upon the written order of the President, or one of the Vice Presidents and any two members of the Executive Committee. He shall keep a true account of his receipts and disbursements, and render a statement thereof at the annual meeting of the society, or whenever called upon to do so by the society or by the Board of Managers.

ARTICLE XIV.

It shall be the duty of the Board of Managers to discharge toward the society the duties which ordinarily belong to boards of trustees of corporations, subject only to the restrictions of

this constitution. It shall exercise a general supervision over the funds and affairs of the society; and a majority thereof at any time may restrain any appropriation of money ordered by the society, which in their judgment is not warranted, or is forbidden by article eighteen of this constitution. It shall make annually on the second Tuesday of January a detailed report to the society of its transactions for the preceding year, with recommendations for the development and advantage of the society as seem to it best.

ARTICLE XV.

All officers shall continue in office until their successors are elected and accept or qualify or give the required bond.

ARTICLE XVI.

The society shall meet quarterly on the second Tuesday in April, July, October and January. The president, or either of the vice-presidents, or the chairman of the executive committee, may direct the call of a special meeting at any time.

ARTICLE XVII.

Seven members who shall attend any regularly called meeting shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE XVIII.

No debt shall be incurred in the name of the society, for any purpose whatever, beyond the amount of its unappropriated funds in the hands of the treasurer at the time any expenditure may be authorized. Nor shall any officer or committee incur any obligation in the name of the society without the authority of the society previously conferred by a vote of the society.

ARTICLE XIX.

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at a regular meeting, provided notice of the proposed amendment shall be given at two regular meetings next previous to the vote thereon and such notice published at least once in at least one of the papers published in the village of Schoharie ten day prior to said vote.

BY-LAWS.

1. The regular meetings of this society shall be held at Niagara Engine House in the village of Schoharie at half-past seven o'clock P. M., unless a different hour shall be designated by the previous meeting; or at such other place in the village of Schoharie as may be designated at such previous meeting.

2. Special meetings may be called at such time and place as the President or either of the Vice-Presidents may designate. The Recording Secretary shall give notice of both regular and special meetings of the society.

3. The annual meeting of the Society shall be held on the second Tuesday of January annually. The election of officers shall then take place, and the annual reports of the officers of the previous year shall be received, and, if approved, adopted. At each annual meeting there shall be an address delivered before the society by some person to be appointed by the society on the recommendation of the Committee on Addresses.

4. Within the next ten days the President shall appoint from among the active members of the society the following Standing Committees, to consist of three members each, viz:

1. Finance.
2. Membership.
3. Donations and Collections.
4. Addresses.
5. Property and Fixtures.
6. Publication.
7. Biography and Historical Matter.

And the Secretary shall forthwith publish the committees so appointed in at least one of the papers published in Schoharie, Cobleskill and Middleburgh.

5. The President shall be *ex-officio* Chairman of the Committee on Finance. It shall be the duty of such committee to supervise the books, accounts, and reports of the Treasurer and the financial reports and expenditures of the society; to con-

sider and recommend all suitable measures to increase the revenues of the society and promote economy in its expenditures; to examine and report upon all claims against the society, and upon all propositions for the appropriation and expenditure of its funds when such propositions have not been made or reported upon by some other standing committee of the society. It shall also recommend to the society a proper investment of its funds.

6. The Committee on Membership shall inquire into the qualifications of candidates proposed for membership, and promptly report thereon to the society; and it shall be its duty to labor to increase the membership by inducing all proper persons to become members. Propositions for membership shall be in writing and any person may become a member of the society, upon being elected by the society and paying his membership fee. The charter members shall be notified by the secretary of their election to membership.

7. The Committee on Donations and Collections shall have the supervision of the discovery, solicitation, and transportation of donations and loans for the collection of the society. It shall make such recommendations to the society in regard to the procuring of historical materials by purchase or otherwise as may seem to it desirable.

8. The Committee on Addresses shall arrange for the delivery of papers and addresses on historical topics and investigations connected with the objects of the society at the regular meetings.

9. The Committee on Property and fixtures shall have the charge and supervision of the rooms of the society and its property otherwise than its catalogued collections; shall keep the same in repair, and shall recommend such additions from time to time as the growth of the society shall render necessary.

10. The Committee on Publications shall have the charge and supervision of all the publications of the society, in order that the same may be properly and correctly printed whenever directed by the society. It shall also recommend for publication by the society such material as it may deem desirable.

11. The Committee on Biography and Historical matter shall have charge of the procuring of details and data respecting the history of the county and its surroundings, and of the individuals and matters prominent in or connected with such data and history; and it shall be the duty of its members to prepare and arrange these data in a manner suitable for preservation and reference.

12. All reports of the standing committees shall be made to the society in writing, and placed upon file; but the committees may report by resolution if they shall deem it expedient.

13. All books, manuscripts, and other articles belonging or loaned to the society shall be plainly marked with the name of the society and with the name of the donor or person loaning the article. They shall be numbered and entered correspondingly in the catalogue.

14. No books, maps, charts, manuscripts, or copies thereof, nor any other article belonging to the library, or collection, or cabinet of the society shall be taken from its rooms without the written permission of the librarian and a majority of the executive committee, who shall take and file a receipt for the same.

15. No book or other article placed on deposit with the society shall be removed from the library or rooms of the society except on the written consent of the owner thereof.

16. The printed books in the library of the society shall be accessible to all members, whether resident, life, honorary or corresponding, and its manuscript collections at the discretion of the librarian. To visitors who are not members access to the manuscript collections of the society can be had only by the consent of the librarian or curator, or a member of the Committee on Library.

17. Any member of this society may be expelled by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members present at a regular meeting, provided notice of the motion to expel shall be given at a meeting held at least four weeks previous thereto.

18. Any of these By-Laws may be suspended in case of a temporary emergency by the unanimous vote of a meeting duly organized. They may be amended from time to time by a majority vote of the members present at a regular meeting, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been given at the previous regular meeting.

19. At the regular meetings of the society the following shall be the regular order of business:

1. Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting.
2. Acknowledgments of donations or loans to the society
3. Reports and communications from the officers of the society.
4. Reports of standing committees.
5. Reports of special committees.
6. Election of members.
7. Miscellaneous business
8. Reading of papers and delivery of addresses.

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CONTRIBUTIONS.

In soliciting contributions, donations, and loans for the Schoharie County Historical Society we are met with these questions—What do you wish to get? Will it be taken care of? Can I have it again if necessary? To answer these questions briefly is the object of this circular, and, in return, we shall be pleased to hear from any who will assist in forming or adding to the collections of the society.

WHAT IS DESIRED?

1. Books.—All books of whatever character of which any person who is now or has been a resident of the county is the author, editor, publisher or printer. All books relating to the Indians or the prehistoric residents of this portion of the State. All relating to the history, settlement, growth, development, agriculture, manufactures, and industries of the towns of this and surrounding counties. All the publications of Historical Societies, and of the State of New York. All the publications of the United States bearing upon the civil, political, educational, and religious history of this or any other portion of the country.

2. Pamphlets.—All pamphlets that come under any of the above descriptions of books desired. All published sermons having a local, historical, or personal significance; all historical and anniversary discourses, addresses, and published celebrations; all published speeches of public men who are or have been residents of the county; all political, religious, and other reports and pamphlets published within the county; all catalogues and reports of schools, academies, and other institutions or associations of education, charity morals, or religion which have been, are now, or may hereafter be established within the county or its surroundings; odd copies of old newspapers which have been preserved for any purpose.

3. Manuscripts.—Old deeds and conveyances, or photo-

graphs of the same; autograph letters; letters, journals, and narratives of early settlers; surveys and field books of old estates, roads, settlements and villages; records, muster rolls and documents connected with any military organization ever formed or attempted within the county whether it went into actual service or not; all old maps whether of local or general character.

4. PICTURES.—Views of historic spots, structures and events; ground plans of fortifications, defences, structures, and settlements; portraits, busts, pictures, and photographs of local and historical persons; all pictures, paintings, and photographs which have a local or historical value.

5. IMPLEMENTS.—All prehistoric and Indian remains, relics, and articles of every variety and description.

6. RELICS.—All relics and mementoes in any way connected with the early history of this portion of the State, or with the experience of any of its settlers here or in their earlier homes.

7. NATURAL HISTORY.—All specimens illustrating the geological formation, mineral wealth, animal and vegetable life of the county and its immediate surroundings.

PRESERVATION.

The "Old Stone Fort" is considered a fire-proof structure. A competent Librarian or Curator will be in charge of the collections. The society will endeavor to catalogue, arrange, exhibit, and carefully preserve all articles committed to its care. No property belonging to the society can be removed from the building or handled, except under carefully prepared regulations. No property loaned to the society can be taken from its rooms except upon the written consent of the owner previously obtained; and the owner of an article loaned to the society may reclaim it at any time upon signing a receipt showing the society is no longer held responsible for its care or preservation.

MARK W. STEVENS, *President.*
HENRY F. KINGSLEY, *Rec. Secretary.*
SOLOMON SIAS, HENRY H. JOHNSON, ORSON SPICKERMAN, } *Committee on Collections.*

OFFICERS.

President.

MARK W. STEVENS, *Schoharie.*

Vice-Presidents.

GEORGE L. DANFORTH, *Middleburgh.*
WILLIAM E. ROSCOE, *Carlisle.*
HOBART KRUM, *Schoharie.*

Recording Secretary.

DR. HENRY F. KINGSLEY, *Schoharie.*

Corresponding Secretary.

PROF. SOLOMON SIAS, *Schoharie.*

Treasurer.

JOHN B. GRANT, *Schoharie.*

Librarian.

HENRY CADY, *Schoharie.*

Executive Committee.

CHARLES BREWSTER, FRANK G. MIX, WM. D. GEBHARD,
PETER C. VROMAN, MARTIN V. B. HAGAR.

Councillors.

MARK W. STEVENS.
GEORGE L. DANFORTH,
WILLIAM E. ROSCOE,
HOBART KRUM,
HENRY F. KINGSLEY,
SOLOMON SIAS,
JOHN B. GRANT,
HENRY CADY,
CHARLES BREWSTER,
DANIEL W. JENKINS,
WILLIAM WHITTING,
DR. RICHTMYER HUBBELL,
ORRIN HUSE,
DOW BEEKMAN,
HENRY H. JOHNSON,
JACOB VAN VALKENBURGH,
JAMES M. FOSTER,
EDWARD LAMONT,
JOHN VAN SCHAICK,
FRANK G. MIX,
WILLIAM D. GEBHARD,
PETER C. VROMAN,
MARTIN V. B. HAGAR,
MARTIN L. SCHLEFFER,
HENRY A. BROWN,
ARTHUR H. FARQUHER,
CHARLES E. KNISKERN,
SMITH YOUNGS,
JOHN W. LARKIN,
LUMAN REED,
DANIEL H. MILLER,
SEYMOUR BOUGHTON,
ORSON SPICKERMAN,
GILBERT FRANCE,
PETER F. ZIMMER,
DAVID ENDERS,
ALBERT L. FISHER.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Finance,
Dr. Henry F. Kingsley, Hobart Krum, John W. Larkin.

Membership,
Henry Cady, John B. Grant, Wm. Whitting.

Donations and Collections,
Prof. Solomon Sias, Henry H. Johnson, Orson Spickerman.

Addresses,
Hobart Krum, Geo. L. Danforth, D. W, Jenkins.

Care of Property and Collections,
Smith Youngs, William D. Gebhard, Charles Brewster.

Publications,
Prof. Solomon Sias, Dow Beekman, Mark W. Stevens.

Biography and Historical Matter,
Henry H. Johnson, William E. Roscoe, Frank G. Mix.

LIST OF MEMBERS.

Francisco Wood,
W. S. Lawyer,
Peter S. Dietz,
Adam Driesbach,
David A. Hitchman,
Byron Stevens,
Hager Youngs,
Charles Wilsey,
Charles Couch,
Ellsworth Vroman,
Woodford Gaylord,
Alfred Parrott,
William L Dietz,
E. H. Heck,
James Van Vechten,
Arthur D. Mead,
Don S. Mayham,
Charles C. Kromer,
Daniel D. Frisbie,
James M. Burns,
E. Wesley Boyce,
Jacob Rickard,
Jacob H. Wolford,
Dr. W. S. Layman,
Peter O. Winter,
Wellington E. Bassler,
J. Edward Young,
John H. Cornell,
George W. Podge.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS.

Rufus A. Greider, of Canajoharie. Charles W. Darling, of Utica.
Rev. Dr. William E. Griffis, of Boston.

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